



# FLOOD SAFETY

## National Awareness Week

MARCH 16 - 22, 2015

### Know. Protect. Prepare. Act.

**F**lood events can occur at anytime throughout the year.

**P**rotecting lives and properties is our top priority.

**C**ompleting these simple steps will help you before, during, and after a flood.

#### Know your flood hazard.

Your property may be located within or close to a flood hazard. Find out using these mapping tools.

##### FEMA's Map Service Center

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>

##### Centre County's Public GIS

<http://centrecountypa.gov/index.aspx?NID=202>

#### Protect your property.

Your homeowner's insurance policy **does not** cover flood damages. If you are located within a flood hazard zone, you

should have a flood insurance policy. *Flood insurance policies are not effective until 30 days after the date of purchase.* For more information about purchasing a flood insurance policy, visit the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** website at <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>.

- Talk with an insurance agent to determine an adequate level of coverage.
- Basic flood insurance policies cover structural damage only,

and do not cover a home's contents.

### **Prepare for a flood.**

You never think it will happen, but then it does.

- Discuss and practice as a family an emergency flood plan.
- Pack an emergency kit with food, water, medicines, and personal items that you can quickly access and take with you.
- Identify more than one evacuation route from your neighborhood.

### **Protect your life.**

#### **Do these:**

- Evacuate flooded areas and go to the nearest emergency shelter.
- If you cannot evacuate your house, go to the highest floor and wait for emergency assistance.

#### **Don't do these:**

- Do not drive across a flooded road - six inches of water can sweep away a car.
- Do not attempt to retrieve objects caught in flood waters - you risk getting swept away.



### **Existing homes**

- ✓ Elevate basement appliances such as hot water heaters, washers and dryers.
- ✓ Relocate utilities such as your home's electrical service panel from the basement to the first floor of the living space.
- ✓ Reduce additional surface water damage by adjusting drain spouting away from the house or installing French drains.
- ✓ Separate your home's flood water collection system (submersible pump and piping) from your septic sewer discharge pipes to prevent sewer treatment system overload.

### **New construction**

- ✓ Elevate the bottom of the first floor above the measured base flood elevation according to your municipalities flood hazard zoning and/or construction codes.
- ✓ Eliminate the traditional basement foundation or crawlspace.
- ✓ Install utilities and appliances on the first floor of the living space.
- ✓ Install proper venting and consult with your contractor on placing windows and doors in an alignment to allow flood waters to flow through structures, if needed.

